

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying a screen for operating a plurality of image output devices that each have different ~~attributes~~, attributes and an image input device, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting and scanning image data with the image input device;

performing a logical operation of the attributes of the image output devices satisfying a desired condition; and

displaying a screen with selectable attributes based on the result of the logical operation.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the logical operation is a logical product (AND) operation or logical sum (OR) operation.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the logical operation is carried out for every attribute of said plural image output devices.

4. (Currently Amended) An image input device for use in an image output system, wherein the image output system includes plural image output devices connected to a network and outputs images on the basis of image data and image output format information transmitted through the network, the image output system further including an image output managing device connected to the network, which transmits an operation screen generating signal to generate, on the basis of the attribute information of each of the plural image output devices, at least one of a first operation screen for displaying attribute information common to plural image output devices satisfying a designated condition and a second operation screen for displaying all the attribute information of the plural image output devices satisfying the designated condition, and transmits information on the output format of an image received

through the network and the image data to a designated image output device, wherein said image input device includes:

an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;

a display input device for inputting information to designate a condition for an operation screen to be displayed, displaying thereon at least one of the first operation screen for displaying the attribute information common to the plural image output devices satisfying the designated condition and the second operation screen for displaying all the attribute information of the plural image output devices satisfying the designated condition generated on the basis of the operation screen generating signal, and inputting, from the displayed operation screen, information to designate an image output device from which the image is output and information on the output format of the image to be output from the designated image output device; and

a transceiver that is connected to the network and transmits the information input from the display input device and the image data input from the image data input device through the network and also receives the operation screen generating signal through the network.

5. (Original) The image input device of claim 4, wherein when the number of attributes to be displayed on said operation screen at least equals a predetermined value, excessive attributes beyond the predetermined value are displayed below one attribute.

6. (Original) The image input device of claim 5, wherein an interface is provided, with the excessive attributes displayed in detail in accordance with an operation carried out using said interface.

7. (Currently Amended) An image output managing device for use in an image output system including:

plural image output devices that are connected to a network and output images on the basis of image data and information on image output formats transmitted through said network;

an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;

a display input device for inputting information to designate a condition for an operation screen to be displayed, displaying thereon at least one of a first operation screen for displaying attribute information common to plural image output devices satisfying a designated condition and a second operation screen for displaying all the attribute information of the plural image output devices satisfying the designated condition, the first and second operation screens being generated on the basis of an operation screen generating signal, and inputting, from the displayed operation screen, information to designate an image output device from which the image is output and information on the output format of the image to be output from said designated image output device; and

a transceiver that is connected to the network and transmits the information input from said display input device and the image data input from said image data input device through said network to the image output managing device and also receives a signal to generate said operation screen through said network,

wherein said image output managing device is connected to said network, transmits an operation screen generating signal for generating at least one of the first operation screen for displaying the attribute information common to said plural image output devices satisfying the designated condition and the second operation screen for displaying all the attribute information of said plural image output devices satisfying the designated condition on the basis of the attribute information of each of said plural image output devices,

and transmits the information on the output format of the image and the image data received through said network to a designated image device.

8. (Original) The image output managing device of claim 7, wherein when all the attributes of said image output devices satisfying the condition are displayed on said operation screen, one of the image output devices is selected on the basis of the output format information input from said operation screen.

9. (Currently Amended) An image output system comprising:
a plurality of image output devices connected to a network that output images on the basis of image data and image output format information transmitted through the network;
an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;
a display input device for inputting information to designate a condition, in response to a signal for displaying thereon an operation screen for the image output devices of at least one of a first operation screen displaying attributes common to the image output devices satisfying the condition, and a second operation screen displaying all attributes of the image output devices satisfying the condition, and inputting from the displayed operation screen, information to designate from which image output device to output an image and output format information for the image to be output from the designated image output device; and
a transceiver and image output managing device connected to said network, wherein the image output managing device transmits said signal, and the transceiver receives the signal and transmits image data and information input from said display and image data input devices through said network to the image output managing device, and the image output managing device transmits the image data and information to a designated image output device.

10. (Currently Amended) A user interface device for selecting an image output device of a plurality of image output devices connected to a network, the user interface device comprising an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data connected to the network, an operation screen displaying only attribute information of the image output devices for selection, which are connected to the network and which are determined to be available for image output each time the operation screen is displayed, on the basis of attribute information of each of the image output devices.

11. (Currently Amended) An image input device for use in an image output system, wherein the image output system includes a plurality of image output devices connected to a network and that output images on the basis of image data and output image format information, and an image output managing device connected to the network, which checks whether the image output devices are available for image output each time an operation screen is displayed, and transmits a signal for generating the operation screen on the basis of only attribute information of each one of the image output devices which are determined to be available for image output, the image input device comprising:

an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;

a display input device for displaying said operation screen, and inputting from said operation screen, information indicating image output devices for outputting images and image output format information for images to be output from said designated image output devices; and

a transceiver connected to the network that transmits the information and image data input from said display input device through the network to said image output managing device and receives the signal for generating said operation screen through said network.

12. (Currently Amended) An image input device for use in an image output system, wherein the image output system includes a plurality of image output devices connected to a network and that output images on the basis of image data and output image format information, and an image output managing device connected to the network that transmits a signal for generating an operation screen on the basis of attribute information of each of the image output devices available for image output, the image input device comprising:

an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;

a display input device for displaying said operation screen, and inputting from said operation screen, information indicating image output devices for outputting images and image output format information for images to be output from said designated image output devices; and

a transceiver connected to the network that requests status checks during predetermined operation of said operation screen, transmits the information and image data input from said display input device through the network to said image output managing device when image output devices available for image output are designated, and receives the signal for generating said operation screen through said network, and transmits to the display input device a signal for displaying an error or alert information on the operation screen when an image output device which is not available for image output is designated.

13. (Currently Amended) An image output managing device for use in an image output system including a plurality of image output devices that are connected to a network and that output images on the basis of image data and image output format information transmitted through the network, the device comprising:

an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;

a display input device for displaying in response to a signal, an operation screen and inputting from the operation screen, information to designate from which image output devices to output images and output format information for the images to be output from the designated image output devices; and

a transceiver to said network, wherein the transceiver transmits image data and information input from said display and image data input devices through said network to the image output managing device, and the image output managing device checks whether the image output devices are available for image output each time the operation screen is displayed, and transmits the signal for generating the operation screen on the basis of only the attribute information of each image output device that is determined to be available for image output, and transmits the image data and information to the designated image output devices.

14. (Currently Amended) An image output managing device for use in an image output system including a plurality of image output devices that are connected to a network and that output images on the basis of image data and image output format information transmitted through the network, the device comprising:

an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;

a display input device for displaying in response to a signal, an operation screen and inputting from the operation screen, information to designate from which image output devices to output images and output format information for the images to be output from the designated image output devices; and

a transceiver connected to said network, wherein when image output devices available for image output are designated, the transceiver transmits on the basis of status of image output devices, image data and information input from said display and image data input devices through said network to the image output managing device, and the image output managing device transmits the signal for generating the operation screen on the basis

of attribute information of each of the image output devices, requests status checks for designated image output devices during predetermined operation of the operation screen, and when image output devices available for image output are designated, transmits the image data and information to the designated image output devices, and when an image output device which is not available for image output is designated, transmits to the display input device a signal for displaying an error or an alert information on the operation screen.

15. (Currently Amended) An image output system comprising:

a plurality of image output devices connected to a network that output images on the basis of image data and image output format information transmitted through the network;

an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;

a display input device for displaying in response to a signal, an operation screen and inputting from the operation screen, information to designate from which image output devices to output images and output format information for the images to be output from the designated image output devices; and

a transceiver and image output managing device connected to said network, wherein the transceiver transmits image data and information input from said display and image data input devices through said network to the image output managing device, and the image output managing device checks whether the image output devices are available for image output each time the operation screen is displayed, and transmits the signal for generating the operation screen on the basis of only the attribute information of each image output device that is determined to be available for image output, and transmits the image data and information to the designated image output devices.

16. (Currently Amended) An image output system comprising:

a plurality of image output devices connected to a network that output images on the basis of image data and image output format information transmitted through the network;

an image data input device for inputting and scanning the image data;

a display input device for displaying in response to a signal, an operation screen and inputting from the operation screen, information to designate from which image output devices to output images and output format information for the images to be output from the designated image output devices; and

a transceiver and image output managing device connected to said network, wherein when an image output device available for image output is designated, the transceiver transmits image data and information input from said display and image data input devices through said network to the image output managing device, and the image output managing device requests status checks for a designated image output devices during predetermined operation of the operation screen, transmits the signal for generating the operation screen on the basis of attribute information of each image output device, and transmits the image data and information from said transceiver to the designated image output device, and when an image output device which is not available for image output is designated, transmits to the display input device a signal for displaying an error or an alert information on the operation screen.

17-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A group registering method for image output devices in an image output system, wherein the image output system includes a plurality of image output devices connected to a network and an image input device, with each image output device having a plurality of attributes, the method comprising:

inputting and scanning image data connected to the network with the image input device;

searching for image output devices having a designated attribute; and
grouping the image output devices searched on the basis of information for group instruction and registration of said image output devices.

38. (Original) The group registering method of claim 37, wherein searching for image output devices having the designated attribute is performed on the basis of pre-stored attribute information or detected attribute information of each of said image output devices.

39. (Currently Amended) An image output system comprising:
a plurality of image output devices each of which is connected to a network and outputs an image on the basis of image data transmitted through said network;
an image input device connected to said network, the image input device including a-an image data input portion for inputting and scanning the image data, a display input portion for inputting information for indicating a search condition for image output devices and information for instruction of selective grouping of image output devices satisfying the search condition, and transmitting/receiving portion for transmitting the image data input from said image data input portion and the information input from said display input portion and receives the attribute information of image output devices satisfying the search condition; and

a managing device that is connected to said network searches said plurality of image output devices for those satisfying the search condition, and registers image output devices as a group according to the information for instruction of selective grouping.

40. (Currently Amended) An image input device for use in an image output system including a plurality of image output devices each of which is connected to a network and outputs an image on the basis of image data and an output format transmitted through

said network, and a managing device that is connected to said network, searches said image output devices on the basis of attribute information of each of said image output devices for those satisfying a search condition, transmits the attribute information of the image output devices searched through said network and registers the image output devices on the basis of information for instruction of grouping, the image input device comprising:

an image data input portion for inputting and scanning image data;

a display input portion for inputting information for displaying a search condition for said image output devices and information for instruction of selective grouping of image output devices satisfying the search condition, and displaying the attribute information of said image output devices satisfying the search condition; and

a transmitting/receiving portion that is connected to said network, transmits the image data input from said image data input means through said network, and the information input from said display input means and receives the attribute information of said image output devices satisfying the search condition.

41. (Currently Amended) A managing device for use in an image output system having a plurality of image output devices each of which is connected to a network and outputs an image on the basis of image data transmitted through said network, the managing device comprising an image input device for inputting and scanning image data connected to the network, logic for inputting information for indicating a search condition for said image output devices and information for instruction for selective grouping of image output devices satisfying the search condition, and further searching of image output devices satisfying the search condition on the basis of attribute information of each of said image output devices, and transmitting the attribute information of said image output devices thus further searched, and registering image output devices as a group on the basis of the information for instruction of selective grouping.

42. (Currently Amended) A group registering method for a plurality of image output devices connected to a network in an image output system, wherein the image output devices output images on the basis of image data, and the image output system includes an image input device for inputting and scanning the image data, and a display input device for inputting information for indicating a search condition for said image output devices and for inputting information for instruction of selective grouping of image output devices satisfying the search condition, and displaying attribute information of said image output devices, and a managing device for managing the attribute information of each of said plurality of image output devices, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting from said image input device to said managing device the information representing the search condition for said image output devices input from said display input device;

searching for image output devices satisfying the search condition on the basis of each of the attribute information of said plurality of image output devices and transmitting the attribute information of said image output devices thus searched to said image input device in said managing device;

displaying the attribute information of said image output devices satisfying the search condition on said display input device and transmitting to the managing device information for instruction of selective grouping of image output devices satisfying the search condition input to said image input device; and

registering said image output devices as a group according to the information for instruction of selective grouping.

43-50. (Canceled)